



THE POWER OF



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A Newsletter For Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 10 Employees



Governor Fletcher visits Lee County to present check for road safety project

Governor Ernie Fletcher and Acting KYTC Secretary Bill Nighbert visited Beattyville on Friday, Oct. 14 to present a check symbolizing the beginning of a \$3.7 million highway safety improvement project in Lee County.

They were joined by State Senator Robert Stivers and State Representative Ted Edmonds as a check for a water-line expansion project was also presented on behalf of the Governor's Office for Local Development

The scenic view of the Kentucky River Valley was the backdrop at the amphitheater at the Lee County Community Center as Fletcher explained the purpose and need for the project.

This project, long sought by local officials, involves rockfall mitigation on KY 52, Beattyville-Jackson Road, at Sharp Rock. Under the contract, Hinkle Contracting Corp. will cut away a weathered embankment cut for highway

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Governor Fletcher visited with Beattyville Equipment employees Patty Combs, right, and Shug Combs, left, prior to the start of the ceremony.

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between the hillside and the North Fork of the Kentucky River. A hazardous curve will also be straightened as part of the project.

The contract was awarded in July and work should be completed by mid-summer 2006.

While in Lee County, Fletcher also updated the large crowd of community leaders who turned out on a sunny fall day on the status of a proposed \$6 million bypass of downtown Beattyville. This project, which will bypass the town's Main Street and a substandard railroad underpass as well as eliminate two at-grade railroad crossing and improve access to Lee County High School and Lee County Area Technology Center, is in the final stages of right-of-way acquisition. The governor told the crowd that property purchases are 90 percent complete and this project is expected to go to bid next year.



Acting Secretary Nighbert acknowledged the Lee County High School band during his remarks and introduction of the governor.



District 10 Chief District Engineer Linda Wagner-Justice was the master of ceremonies for Gov. Fletcher's visit, as the amphitheater was decorated for fall and the Lee County Woolly Worm Festival.



Lee County Maintenance employees held a banner to welcome Gov. Fletcher to Beattyville, above. Below, state and local officials with the ceremonial check presented during the event.



Secretary Nighbert, Commissioner Williams host first-ever district-wide meeting

For what is believed to be the first time ever, a meeting for all District 10 employees was held to give the employees a chance to make their concerns known to Cabinet leadership.

On an unseasonably warm fall day, employees from the district office and facilities in the 10-county area gathered outdoors at the amphitheater at the Lee County Community Center on Thursday, Oct. 20. With the scenic Kentucky River valley as a backdrop, the employees heard from several KYTC officials.

Doug Hogan, executive director of the Office of Public Affairs, introduced the officials in attendance and gave an overview of the Cabinet's public relations philosophy, and also explained the rationale for the district-wide meetings.

Linda Wagner-Justice, chief district engineer for District 10, introduced key staff members and recounted some of the district's recent projects and successful undertakings. She also announced the recipients of service awards and asked those present to stay after the meeting for photos.

Marc Williams, commissioner of the Department of Highways, gave an overview of the Cabinet's recent accomplishments and discussed this year's construction lettings, which may approach record levels. He also stressed the importance of workplace safety to those in attendance and underscored the Cabinet's commitment to its employees.

Acting Secretary Bill Nighbert told the employees that he considered them to be a part of his family, and that he intends to look out for them in Frankfort. He said he wants to provide them with the equipment they need to do their jobs, and wants to make sure that they are paid a fair salary that enables them to support their families.

Nighbert used a personal story to illustrate how important KYTC is. He said that his neighbors in Williamsburg were killed in an automobile accident in Florida, when another motorist ran a stop sign that was obscured by tree branches and struck the Kentuckians' vehicle. Nighbert said that although complaints had been registered about the obstruction, nothing was done until that fatal accident. Only afterwards was the tree cut down to make the stop sign visible.

The secretary also stressed workplace safety, saying that KYTC employees go to work every day in dangerous conditions with traffic speeding by what amounts to their of-



Acting Secretary Bill Nighbert addressed the gathering of employees.

fices.

Because the work of KYTC employees is so vital and so risky, Nighbert said he is proposing a flat-rate across-the-board pay increase of \$1,000 and is also directing a survey of neighboring states to see how much other state transportation agencies pay their employees. Nighbert said once the information is compiled, it will be made available to employees and they should then contact their state senators and representatives in the General Assembly to urge the passage of the proposed compensation package.

Nighbert opened the floor for questions, and he was asked about several topics including the possibility of KYTC adopting a 40-hour work week and paying for ASE certification tests for mechanics among other subjects. Employees were also given comment sheets and had the opportunity to fill them out to ask questions or make suggestions.

Afterwards, employees who wished to speak with Nighbert or Williams individually were given the opportunity to do so.

Also accompanying Nighbert, Williams and Hogan to the meeting was Tim Hazlette, commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services. The District 10 meeting was the last one of the 12 district meetings held across the state. The group met with District 12 employees in Pikeville earlier in the day.

Scenes from the district-wide meeting

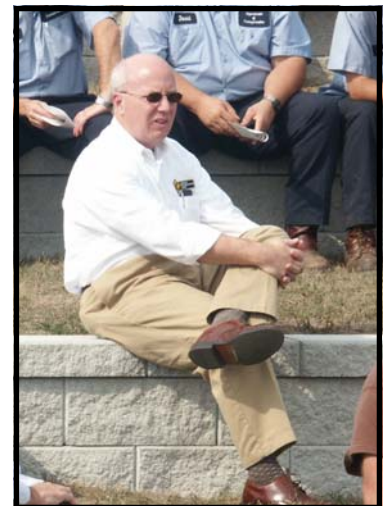


Above, Public Affairs Director Doug Hogan. Left, Secretary Bill Nighbert and Commissioner Marc Williams.



Those who attended were treated to this scenic view during the meeting.

Below, Commissioner Tim Hazlette.



Comment sheets from the district-wide meeting are still being accepted. If you did not fill out a comment sheet and would like to do so, please turn your completed sheet in to H.B. Elkins or Sue Allen in the District Office. They will forward the sheets on to the appropriate parties in Frankfort.

Scenes from the district-wide meeting

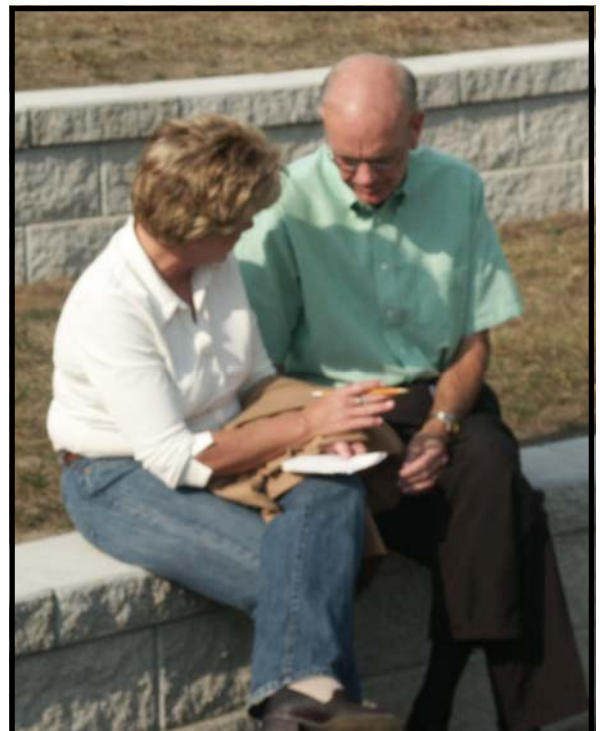


Employees who were awarded service certificates posed with Commissioner Williams, Secretary Nighbert and Chief District Engineer Linda Wagner-Justice.



Gary Angel and Chuck Allen chatted with Commissioner Williams.

Shug Combs with Secretary Nighbert.



2005 Facilities Pride awards



On Oct. 4, the 2005 Facilities Pride awards for District 10 were presented at the District Office. Powell County, above, was the winner for this year and Owsley County, left, was the runner-up. Congratulations to the crews at both garages for their honors!

Estill maintenance crew takes part in mock chemical leak, bus crash

Team members from the Department of Highways Estill County Maintenance crew joined local emergency services personnel and officials from the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Oct. 26 in participating in a mock disaster and training exercise for first responders from Irvine, Ravenna and Estill County.

The Transportation Cabinet employees provided traffic control as emergency personnel responded to a simulated school bus accident on KY 1645 in Estill County near the Irvine-Ravenna border.

"Our employees are often called out to do traffic control and cleanup at accident scenes, fuel spills and other emergency situations," said Linda Wagner-Justice, chief district engineer for District 10, which includes Estill County. "We realize how important it



Estill Maintenance crew members blocked traffic on KY 1645 near Ravenna and Irvine for the mock bus crash. The bus can be seen in the distance.



Emergency responders set up a decontamination unit on KY 1645 as part of the training exercise. Estill County High School football players served as the "victims" in the exercise.

is for emergency responders to be able to do their duty to preserve life and property, so we were happy to participate in this exercise. This served as good training for our crew members, as well."

In the training exercise, students on an Estill County school bus were overcome by fumes from a chemical leak on a railroad car. A portable decontamination unit was set up near the accident location. Students injured in the crash or made ill by the chemical spill were removed from the bus, decontaminated, and given medical treatment. The most seriously ill and injured were transported by ambulance to Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital in Irvine.

The mock disaster was part of a series of local emergency preparedness events held in Estill County that day.



Another group blocked traffic on the other end of the affected portion of the road.

Calendar of Events

- Friday, Nov. 11 — Veterans' Day (state offices closed)
- Thursday, Nov. 24 — Thanksgiving (state offices closed)
- Friday, Nov. 25 — State holiday (state offices closed)
- Wednesday, Dec. 7 — Pearl Harbor Day
- Wednesday, Dec. 21 — First day of winter
- Friday, Dec. 23 — State holiday (offices closed)
- Saturday, Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve
- Sunday, Dec. 25 — Christmas Day
- Monday, Dec. 26 — State holiday (offices closed)
- Friday, Dec. 30 — State holiday (offices closed)
- Saturday, Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve
- Sunday, Jan. 1 — New Year's Day
- Monday, Jan. 2 — State holiday (offices closed)



A NEWSLETTER FOR KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET DISTRICT 10
EMPLOYEES

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2005 KECC golf scramble



A team led by District 10 retiree and current Breathitt County Clerk Tony Watts, second from right, won the annual KECC golf scramble on Sept. 30 at Beech Fork Golf Club in Powell County.

KEAP training



Mary Jane Cowherd from the Personnel Cabinet conducted training on the Kentucky Employee Assistance Program (KEAP) for District 10 employees on Thursday, Oct. 20.